

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 3-8, and 10-21 stand rejected. Claims 2 and 9 stand objected to as depending from rejected base claims. Claims 2 and 9 are being amended to include the limitations of independent claims 1 and 8, respectively. Similarly, independent claims 19 and 20 are being amended to include the same limitations as objected to claims 2 and 9. Claims 3, 5, 6, and 7 are being amended to depend from now amended claim 2, and claims 10 and 13-15 are being amended to depend from now amended claim 9. Claims 1 and 8 are being canceled. No new matter is being introduced by way of the claim amendments.

In Part 2 of the present Office Action, Claims 1-3, 5, 7-11, 13, 15, and 19-21 were rejected in the present Office Action under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bhagwat (U.S. 6,651,105 B1) in view of Willars (U.S. 6,507,567 B1).

Because independent claims 2 and 9 are being amended in the Claim Listing above to include the limitations of their base claims 1 and 8 and independent claims 19 and 20 are being amended to include the limitations of claims 2 and 9, Applicant respectfully submits the rejection of the independent claims is now moot and the rejection should be withdrawn with regard to these claims.

Because claims 3, 5, 7, 10, 11, 13, 15, and 21 depend from base claims which should now be allowable, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection of these dependent claims should also be withdrawn.

In Part 18 of the present Office Action, Claims 4, 6, 12, 14, and 16-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bhagwat in view of Willars and further in view of Illidge (U.S. 2002/0085514 A1).

Because each of these claims depends from a base claim which should now be allowable, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection of these claims should be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that all claims pending after entry of this Amendment, claims 2-7, and 9-21, are in condition for allowance, and it is respectfully requested that the application be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

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